

This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + Refrain from automated querying Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at http://books.google.com/

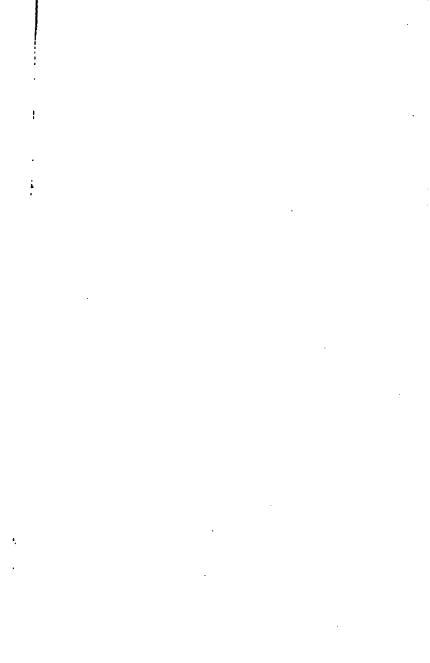
PALESTINE

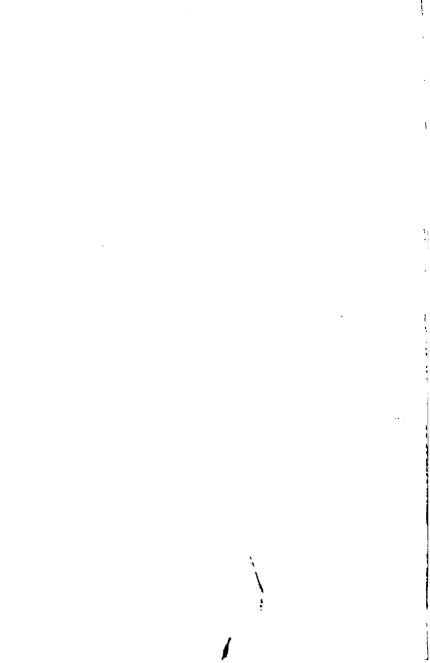


RD WATSON GILDER



Filder





IN PALESTINE

AND OTHER POEMS

(0-)1

By R. 119. Gilder.

æ

THE NEW DAY
THE CELESTIAL PASSION
LYRICS
TWO WORLDS

THE GREAT REMEMBRANCE
THE ABOVE ALSO IN ONE VOLUME ENTIFLED
FIVE BOOKS OF SONG

"FOR THE COUNTRY"

IN PALESTINE AND OTHER POEMS

IN PALESTINE

AND OTHER POEMS

BY

RICHARD WATSON GILDER



NEW YORK
THE CENTURY CO.

THE NEW YORK PUBLICLIBRARY 104251 ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS. 1898

Copyright, 1893, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1895, 1897, 1898, by THE CENTURY CO.

Copyright, 1898, by RICHARD WATSON GILDER

All Rights Reserved

THE DE VINNE PRESS.

CONTENTS.

I

		PAGE
In Palestine		11
THE ANGER OF CHRIST.		. i6
THE BIRDS OF BETHLEHEM		19
Noël		. 21
"THE SUPPER AT EMMAUS" (A Picture by Rembrandt)		22
THE DOUBTER		. 23
THE PARTHENON BY MOONLIGHT		24
THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE		. 27
Karnak		28
"Angelo, Thou Art the Master"	•	. 32
A WINTER TWILIGHT IN PROVENCE	•	35
II		
"The Poet's Day"		41
"How to the Singer Comes the Song?"		. 42
"LIKE THE BRIGHT PICTURE"		44
REMEMBRANCE OF BEAUTY		• 45
Music in Solitude		46
"A Power there is"		. 49
THE SONG'S ANSWER		51
THE CELLO		. 52

PA	GE
THE VALLEY ROAD	53
HAWTHORNE IN BERKSHIRE	56
LATE SUMMER	57
An Hour in a Studio (F. L.)	58
ILLUSION	60
A Song of the Road	61
"Not Here"	62
"'No, No,' She Said"	63
	64
"This Hour my Heart Went Forth, as in Old	•
	67
"Even When Joy is Near"	68
RESURRECTION	70
"As Soars the Eagle"	72
Ш	
•••	
ROBERT GOULD SHAW (The Monument by Augustus St.	
Gaudens)	7 5
"THE NORTH STAR DRAWS THE HERO" (TO H. N. G.)	7 8
GLAVE	7 9
OF HENRY GEORGE (Who Died Fighting Against Political	
Tyranny and Corruption, New York, 1897)	80
Scorn	81
THE HEROIC AGE (Athens, 1896)	82
THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (In Memory of Joe Evans)	84
"THROUGH ALL THE CUNNING AGES"	

CONTENTS.	,
ONE COUNTRY—ONE SACRIFICE (Ensign Worth Bagley, 88 May 11, 1898)	-
"WHEN WITH THEIR COUNTRY'S ANGER" 80)
A Vision	ı
THE WORD OF THE WHITE TSAR 93	į
IV	
A Song for Dorothea, across the Sea 99	,
A BLIND POET	ī
On a Woman Seen upon the Stage ("Tess," as Played by	
Mrs. Fiske)	ż
OF ONE WHO NEITHER SEES NOR HEARS (Helen Keller) 103	,
For the Espousals of Jeanne Roumanille, of Avignon 105	í
To Marie Josephine Girard, Queen of the Félibres, on her Wedding-Day	7
INSCRIPTION FOR A TOWER IN FLORENCE (Written for the Chatelaine)	3
WITH A VOLUME OF DANTE)



I



IN PALESTINE.

AH no! that sacred land
Where fell the wearied feet of the lone Christ
Robs not the soul of faith. I shall set down
The thought was in my heart. If that hath lost
Aught of its child-belief, 't was long ago,
Not there in Palestine; and if 't were lost,
He were a coward who should fear to lose
A blind, hereditary, thoughtless faith,—
Comfort of fearful minds, a straw to catch at
On the deep-gulfed and tempest-driven sea.

Full well I know how shallow spirits lack
The essence, flinging from them but the form;
I have seen souls lead barren lives and cursed,—
Bereft of light, and all the grace of life,—
Because for them the inner truth was lost
In the frail symbol—hated, shattered, spurned.

But faith that lives forever is not bound To any outward semblance, any scheme Fine-wrought of human wonder, or self-love, Or the base fear of never-ending pain.

True faith doth face the blackness of despair,—Blank faithlessness itself; bravely it holds
To duty unrewarded and unshared;
It loves where all is loveless; it endures
In the long passion of the soul for God.

'T was thus I thought:—
At last the very land whose breath he breathed,
The very hills his bruisèd feet did climb!
This is his Olivet; on this Mount he stood,
As I do now, and with this same surprise
Straight down into the startling blue he gazed
Of the fair, turquoise mid-sea of the plain.
That long, straight, misty, dream-like, violet wall
Of Moab,—lo, how close it looms; the same
Quick human wonder struck his holy vision.
About these feet the flowers he knew so well.
Back where the city's shadow slowly climbs

There is a wood of olives gaunt and gray, And centuries old; it holds the name it bore That night of agony and bloody sweat.

I tell you when I looked upon these fields And stony valleys,—through the purple veil Of twilight, or what time the Orient sun Made shining jewels of the barren rocks,— Something within me trembled; for I said: This picture once was mirrored in his eyes; This sky, that lake, those hills, this loveliness, To him familiar were; this is the way To Bethany; the red anemones Along you wandering path mark the steep road To green-embowered Jordan. All is his: These leprous outcasts pleading piteously; This troubled country,—troubled then as now, And wild and bloody,—this is his own land. On such a day, girdled by these same hills, Pressed by this dark-browed, sullen, Orient crowd, On yonder mount, spotted with crimson blooms, He closed his eyes, in that dark tragedy

Which mortal spirit never dared to sound.

O God! I saw those haunting eyes in every throng.

Were he divine, and maker of all worlds,— The Godhead veiled in suffering, for our sins,-An unimagined splendor poured on earth In sacrifice supreme,—this were a scene Fit for the tears of angels and all men. If he were man,—a passionate human heart, Like unto ours, but with intenser fire, And whiter from the deep and central glow; Who loved all men as never man before, Who felt as never mortal all the weight Of this world's sorrow, and whose hand Upstretched in prayer did seem, indeed, to clutch The hand divine; if he were man, yet dreamed That the Ineffable through him had power— Even through his touch—to scatter human pain (Setting the eternal seal on his high hope And promised kingdom); were he only man, Thus, thus to aspire, and thus at last to fall!

Such anguish! such betrayal! Who could paint That tragedy! one human, piteous cry—
"Forsaken!"—and black death! If he were God,
"T was for an instant only, his despair;
Or were he man, and there is life beyond,
And, soon or late, the good rewarded are,
Then, too, is recompense.

But were he man, 'And death ends all; then was that tortured death On Calvary a thing to make the pulse Of memory quail and stop.

The blackest thought
The human brain may harbor comes that way.
Face that,—face all,—yet lose not hope nor
heart!

One perfect moment in the life of love, One deed wherein the soul unselfed gleams forth,— These can outmatch all ill, all doubt, all fear, And through the encompassing burden of the world Burn swift the spirit's pathway to its God.

THE ANGER OF CHRIST.

I.

On the day that Christ ascended
To Jerusalem,
Singing multitudes attended,
And the very heavens were rended
With the shout of them.

II.

Chanted they a sacred ditty,

Every heart elate;
But he wept in brooding pity,
Then went in the holy city

By the Golden Gate.

III.

In the temple, lo! what lightning
Makes unseemly rout!
He in anger, sudden, frightening,
Drives with scorn and scourge the whitening
Money-changers out.

IV.

By the way that Christ descended
From Mount Olivet,
I, a lonely pilgrim, wended,
On the day his entry splendid
Is remembered yet.

v.

And I thought: If he, returning
On this festival,
Here should haste with love and yearning,
Where would now his fearful, burning
Anger flash and fall?

VI.

In the very house they builded
To his saving name,
'Mid their altars, gemmed and gilded,
Would his scourge and scorn be wielded,
His fierce lightning flame.

VII.

Once again, O Man of Wonder,

Let thy voice be heard!

Speak as with a sound of thunder;

Drive the false thy roof from under;

Teach thy priests thy word.

THE BIRDS OF BETHLEHEM.

ı.

I HEARD the bells of Bethlehem ring—
Their voice was sweeter than the priests';
I heard the birds of Bethlehem sing
Unbidden in the churchly feasts.

II.

They clung and sung on the swinging chain
High in the dim and incensed air;
The priests, with repetitions vain,
Chanted a never-ending prayer.

is the and their and priest I heard, has worse at their was most to me; I ask to them, by word, that we I sounded the and free.

T

ment delle deux were de iden. Komi die die singing dieds die dest, die nied die died dieds in die die sing dien die diedsel.

Sar New York

NOËL.

I.

STAR-DUST and vaporous light,—
The mist of worlds unborn,—
A shuddering in the awful night
Of winds that bring the morn.

II.

Now comes the dawn: the circling earth;
Creatures that fly and crawl;
And Man, that last, imperial birth;
And Christ, the flower of all.

"THE SUPPER AT EMMAUS."

(A PICTURE BY REMBRANDT.)

WISE Rembrandt! thou couldst paint, and thou alone, Eyes that had seen what never human eyes Before had looked on; him that late had passed Onward and back through gates of Death and Life.

O human face where the celestial gleam
Lingers! Oh, still to thee the eyes of men
Turn with deep, questioning worship; seeing there,
As in a mirror, the Eternal Light
Caught from the shining of the central Soul
Whence came all worlds, and whither shall return.

THE DOUBTER.

ī.

Thou Christ, my soul is hurt and bruised!
With words the scholars wear me out;
My brain o'erwearied and confused,—
Thee, and myself, and all I doubt.

II.

And must I back to darkness go
Because I cannot say their creed?
I know not what I think; I know
Only that thou art what I need.

THE PARTHENON BY MOONLIGHT.

I.

This is an island of the golden Past
Uplifted in the tranquil sea of night.

In the white splendor how the heart beats fast,
When climbs the pilgrim to this gleaming height;—
As might a soul, new-born, its wondering way
Take through the gates of pearl and up the stair
Into the precincts of celestial day,—
So to this shrine my worshiping feet did fare.

II.

But look! what tragic waste! Is Time so lavish
Of dear perfection thus to see it spilled?
'T was worth an empire;—now behold the ravish
That laid it low. The soaring plain is filled

With the wide-scattered letters of one word
Of loveliness that nevermore was spoken;
Nor ever shall its like again be heard:
Not dead is art—but that high charm is broken.

III.

Now moonlight builds with swift and mystic art
And makes the ruin whole—and yet not whole;
But exquisite, though crushed and torn apart.
Back to the temple steals its living soul
In the star-silent night; it comes all pale,—
A spirit breathing beauty and delight,—
And yet how stricken! Hark! I hear it wail
Self-sorrowful, while every wound bleeds white.

IV.

And though more sad than is the nightingale

That mourns in Lykabettos' fragrant pine,

That soul to mine brings solace; nor shall fail

To heal the heart of man while still doth shine

THE PARTHENON BY MOONLIGHT.

26

Yon planet, doubly bright in this deep blue;
Yon moon that brims with fire these violet hills:
For beauty is of God; and God is true,
And with his strength the soul of mortal fills.

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

I.

LET fall the ruin propped by Europe's hands!

Its tottering walls are but a nest of crime;

Slayers and ravishers in licensed bands

Swarm darkly forth to shame the face of Time.

II.

False, imbecile, and cruel; kept in place

Not by its natural force, but by the fears

Of foes, scared each of each; even by the grace

Of rivals—not blood-guiltless all these years!

III.

Aye, let the ruin fall, and from its stones
Rebuild a civic temple pure and fair,
Where freedom is not alien; where the groans
Of dying and ravished burden not the air!
1896.

KARNAK.

I.

Or all earth's shrines this is the mightiest, And none is elder. Pylon, obelisk, Column enormous,—seek or east or west, No temple like to Karnak 'neath the disk Of the far-searching sun. Since the first stone Here lifted to the heavens its dumb appeal, Empires and races to the dread unknown Have passed,—gods great and small 'neath Time's slow wheel Have fallen and been crushed;—the earth hath

shaken

Ruin on ruin-desolate, dead, forsaken.

II.

Since first these stones were laid, the solid world,
Aye, this whole, visible, infinite universe,
Hath shifted on its base; suns have been hurled
From heaven; the ever-circling spheres rehearse
A music new to men. Yet still doth run
This river, throbbing life through all its lands;
Those desert mountains lifted to the sun
Live as of old; and these devouring sands;
And through all change alone, amazed, apart—
Still, still the same the insatiate human heart.

III.

And Thou, Eternal, Thou art still the same;
Thou unto whom the first, sad, questioning face
Yearned, for a refuge from the insentient frame
Of matter that doth grind us; seeking grace
From powers imagined, 'gainst the powers we know;—
Some charm to avert the whirlwind, bring the tide
And harvest; turn the blind and awful flow
Of nature! Thou Eternal dost abide

Silent forever, like the unanswering skies That send but empty echoes to men's cries!

IV.

But not in temples now man's only hope,

Nor secret ministries of king and priest

Chanting beyond dark gates that never ope

Unto the people; now no hornèd beast

Looms 'twixt the worshiper and the adored,

Nor any creature's likeness; He remains

Unknown as erst; yet Him whom we call Lord

Is worshiped in the fields as in the fanes.

We have but faith; we know not; yet He seems

More near, more human, in our passionate dreams.

v.

We know not, yet the centuries in their course
Have built an image in the mind of man;
We have but faith, yet that mysterious Force
Less darkly threatens, looms a friendlier plan.

Far off the singing of the morning stars,

Yet age by age such words of light are spoken
(Like whispered messages through prison bars),

Sometimes men deem the dreadful silence broken,
And hearts that late were famished and afeared
Leap to the Voice and onward fare well cheered.

VI.

Cheered for a little season, but the morrow

Brings the old heartbreak; gone is all the gain;
Though the bowed soul be schooled to its own
sorrow,

Ah, heaven! to feel earth's heritage of pain,— The unescapable anguish of mankind,

That blots out natural joy!—O human soul, Learn Courage, though the lightning strike thee blind;

Let Duty be thy worship; Love, thy goal:— Love, Duty, Courage—these make thou thy own, Till from the unknown we pass into the unknown.

"ANGELO, THOU ART THE MASTER."

T.

Angelo, thou art the master; for thou in thy art Compassed the body, the soul; the form and the heart.

Knew where the roots of the spirit are buried and twined,

The springs and the rocks that shall suckle,—and torture and bind.

Large was thy soul like the soul of a god that creates—

Converse it held with the stars and the imminent Fates.

Knewest thou—Art is but Beauty perceived and expressed,

And the pang of that Beauty had entered and melted thy breast.

Here by thy Slave, again, after long years do I bow,—

Angelo, thou art the master, yea, thou, and but thou.

Here is the crown of all beauty that lives in the world; Spirit and flesh breathing forth from these lips that are curled

With sweetness and sorrow as never, oh, never before, And from eyes that are heavy with light, and shall weep nevermore;

And lo, at the base of the statue, that monster of shape—

Thorn of the blossom of life, mocking face of the ape. So cometh morn from the shadow and murk of the night;

From pain springeth joy, and from flame the keen beauty of light.

II.

Beauty,—oh, well for the heart that bows down and adores her:

Heart of mine, hold thou in all the world nothing before her.

All the fair universe now to her feet that is clinging Out of the womb of her leaped with the dawn, and the singing

3

- Of stars. O thou Beautiful!—thee do I worship and praise
- In the dark where thy lamps are; again in thy glory of days,
- Whose end and beginning thou blessest with piercing delight
- Of splendors outspread on the edge of the robe of the night.
- Ah, that sweetness is sent not to him whose dull spirit would rest
- In the bliss of it; no, not the goal, but the passion and quest;
- Not the vale, but the desert. Oh, never soft airs shall awaken
- Thy Soul to the soul of all Beauty, all heaven, and all wonder;
- The summons that comes to thee, mortal, thy spirit to waken,
- Shall be the loud clarion's call and the voices of thunder.

A WINTER TWILIGHT IN PROVENCE.

A stranger in a far and ancient land,
At evening-light I wander. Shade on shade
The mountain valleys darken, and the plain
Grows dim beneath a chill and iron sky.
The trees of peace take the last gray of day—
Day that shone soft on olives, misty-green,
And aisles of wind-forbidding cypresses,
And long, white roads, whitely with plane-trees lined,
And farms content, and happy villages,—
A land that lies close in the very heart
Of history,—and brave, and free, and gay;
In all its song lingering one tone of pain.
But now the wintry twilight silent falls,
And ghosts of other days stalk the lone fields;
While through yon sunk and immemorial road,

Rock-furrowed, rough, and like a torrent's bed,

Far-stretching into night 'twixt twilight farms,
I see in dream the unhistoried armies pass,
With barbarous banners trailing 'gainst the gloom;
Then, in a thought's flash (centuries consumed),
In this deep path a fierce and refluent wave
Brims the confined and onward-pressing march
With standards slantwise borne; so, to the mind,
The all-conquering eagle northward takes its flight,
And one stern empire widens o'er the world.

There looms the arch of war where once, long gone, In these still fields, against those thymy slopes, An alien city reared imperial towers:

See sculptured conqueror, and slave in chains Mournful a myriad years; and near the arch The heaven-climbing, templed monument Embossed with horse and furious warrior!

Millenniums have sped since those grim wars Here grimly carved, the wonder of the churl,—

The very language dead those warriors cried.

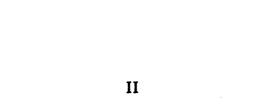
Deepens the dusk, and on the neighboring height A rock-hewn palace cuts the edge of day

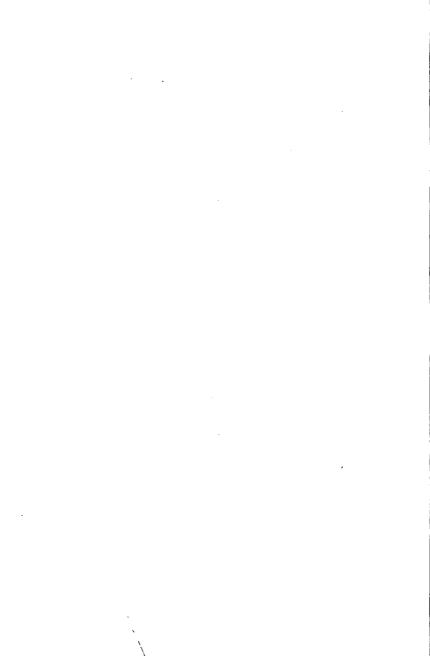
In giant ruin stark against the sky:

Ah, misery! I know its piteous tale
Of armed injustice; monstrous, treacherous force.
Deepens the dusk, and the enormous towers,
Still lording o'er a living city near,
Are lost to sight; but not to thought are lost
A hundred stories of the old-time curse—
War and its ravagings. Deepens the dusk
On westward mountains black with olden crime
And steeped in blood spilled in the blessed name
Of him the Roman soldiers crucified—
The Prince of Peace. Deepens the dusk, and all
The nearer landscape glimmers into dark,
And naught shows clear save yonder wayside cross
Against the lurid west whose dying gleam
Of ghastly sunlight frights the brooding soul.

Dear country mine! far in that viewless west, And ocean-warded, strife thou too hast known; But may thy sun hereafter bloodless shine, And may thy way be onward without wrath, And upward on no carcass of the slain; And if thou smitest, let it be for peace And justice—not in hate, or pride, or lust Of empire. Mayst thou ever be, O land! Noble and pure as thou art free and strong: So shalt thou lift a light for all the world And for all time, and bring the Age of Peace.

ST.-REMY DE PROVENCE, January, 1896.





"THE POET'S DAY."

THE poet's day is different from another,

Though he doth count each man his own heart's brother.

So crystal-clear the air that he looks through,
It gives each color an intenser hue;
Each bush doth burn, and every flower flame;
The stars are sighing; silence breathes a name.
The world wherein he wanders, dreams, and sings
Thrills with the beating of invisible wings;
And all day long he hears from hidden birds
The low, melodious pour of musicked words.

"HOW TO THE SINGER COMES THE SONG?"

I.

How to the singer comes the song?

At times a joy, alone;

A wordless tone

Caught from the crystal gleam of ice-bound trees;

Or from the violet-perfumed breeze;

Or the sharp smell of seas

In sunlight glittering many an emerald mile;

Or the keen memory of a love-lit smile.

II.

Thus to the singer comes the song:
Gazing at crimson skies
Where burns and dies
On day's wide hearth the calm celestial fire,
The poet with a wild desire
Strikes the impassioned lyre,
Takes into tuned sound the flaming sight
And ushers with new song the ancient night.

III.

How to the singer comes the song? Bowed down by ill and sorrow On every morrow,-The unworded pain breaks forth in heavenly singing; Not all too late dear solace bringing

To broken spirits winging Through mortal anguish to the unknown rest,-A lyric balm for every wounded breast.

IV.

How to the singer comes the song? How to the summer fields Come flowers? How yields Darkness to happy dawn? How doth the night Bring stars? Oh, how do love and light Leap at the sound and sight Of her who makes this dark world seem less wrong-

Life of his life, and soul of all his song!

"LIKE THE BRIGHT PICTURE."

LIKE the bright picture ere the lamp is lit,
Or silent page whereon keen notes are writ;
So was my love, all vacant, all unsaid,
Ere she the lamp did light, ere she the music read.

REMEMBRANCE OF BEAUTY.

Love's look finds loveliness in all the world:
Ah, who shall say—This, this is loveliest!
Forgetting that pure beauty is impearled
A thousand perfect ways, and none is best.
Sometimes I deem that dawn upon the ocean
Thrills deeper than all else; but, sudden, there,
With serpent gleam and hue, and fixèd motion,
Niagara curves its scimitar in air.
So when I dream of sunset, oft I gaze
Again from Bellosguardo's misty height,
Or memory ends once more one day of days—
Carrara's mountains purpling into night.
There is no loveliest, dear Love, but thee—
Through whom all loveliness I breathe and see.

MUSIC IN SOLITUDE.

I.

In this valley far and lonely
Birds sang only,
And the brook,
And the rain upon the leaves;
And all night long beneath the eaves
(While with soft breathings slept the housed cattle)
The hived bees
Made music like the murmuring seas;
From lichened wall, from many a leafy nook,
The chipmunk sounded shrill his tiny rattle;
Through the warm day boomed low the droning flies,
And the huge mountain shook
With the organ of the skies.

II.

Dear these songs unto my heart;
But the spirit longs for art,
Longs for music that is born
Of the human soul forlorn,
Or the beating heart of pleasure.
Thou, sweet girl, didst bring this boon
Without stint or measure!
Many a tune
From the masters of all time
In my waiting heart made rhyme.

III.

As the rain on parchèd meadows,
As cool shadows
Falling from the sultry sky,
As loved memories die,
But live again when a well-tunèd voice
Makes with old joy the grievèd heart rejoice,
So came once more with thy clear touch

The melodies I love—
Ah, not too much,
But all earth's natural songs far, far above!
For they are nature felt, and living,
And human, and impassioned;
And they full well are fashioned
To bring to sound and sense the eternal striving,
The inner soul of the inexpressive world,
The meaning furled
Deep at the heart of all,—
The thought that mortals name divine,
Whereof all beauty is the sign,
That comes—ah! surely comes—at music's solemn call.

"A POWER THERE IS."

A POWER there is that trembles through the earth; It lives in nature's mirth, Making that fearful as the touch of pain; It strikes the sun-lit plain, And harvests flash, or bend with rushing rain; It is not far when tempests make their moan, And lightnings leap, and falls the thunder-stone. It comes in morning's beam of living light, And the imperial night Knows it and all its company of stars, And the auroral bars. Through nature all, the subtile current thrills; It built in flood and fire the crystal hills; It molds the flowers. And all the branched forests that abide Forever on the teeming mountain-side.

It lives where music times the soft, processional hours;
And where on that lone hill of art
Proud Phidias carved in stone his lyric heart;
And where wild battle is, and where
Glad lovers breathe in starry night the quivering air.

THE SONG'S ANSWER.

ME mystic? Have your way!

But sing me, if ye may;—

Then shall ye know the power

Of the seed's thought of the flower,

Of the dawn's thought of the day.

THE CELLO.

When late I heard the trembling cello play,
In every face I read sad memories
That from dark, secret chambers where they lay
Rose, and looked forth from melancholy eyes.
So every mournful thought found there a tone
To match despondence; sorrow knew its mate;
Ill fortune sighed, and mute despair made moan;
And one deep chord gave answer, "Late,—too late."
Then ceased the quivering strain, and swift returned
Into its depths the secret of each heart;
Each face took on its mask, where lately burned
A spirit charmed to sight by music's art;
But unto one who caught that inner flame
No face of all can ever seem the same.

THE VALLEY ROAD.

ı.

By this road have passed
Hope and Joy adance;
And one at dark fled fast,—
Quick breath, and look askance;
And in this dust have dropped
Tears that never stopped.

II.

Childhood, caught by flowers,
Cannot choose but dally;
Slowly through the hours
Age creeps down the valley;
Only Youth goes swift—
Eager, and head alift.

HAWTHORNE IN BERKSHIRE.

Mountains and valleys! dear ye are to me:
Your streams wild-wandering, ever-tranquil lakes,
And forests that make murmur like the sea;
And this keen air that from the hurt soul takes
Its pain and languor:—Doubly dear ye are
For many a lofty memory that throws
A splendor on these heights.—'Neath yon low star,
That like a dewdrop melts in heaven's rose,
Dwelt once a starry spirit; there he smote
Life from the living hills; a little while
He rested from the raging of the world.
This Brook of Shadows, whose dark waters purled
Solace to his deep mind, it felt his smile—
Haunted, and melancholy, and remote.

LATE SUMMER.

I.

Though summer days are all too fleet,

Not yet the year is touched with cold;

Through the long billows of the wheat

The green is lingering in the gold.

II.

The birds that thrilled the April copse,
Ah! some have flown on silent wings;
Yet one sweet music never stops:
The constant vireo sings and sings.

AN HOUR IN A STUDIO.

EACH picture was a painted memory Of the far plains he loved, and of their life Weird, mystical, dark, inarticulate,-And cities hidden high against the blue, Whose sky-hung steps one Indian could guard. The enchanted Mesa there its fated wall Lifted, and all its story lived again,— How, in the happy planting time, the strong Went down to push the seeds into the sand, Leaving the old and sick. Then reeled the world And toppled to the plain the perilous path. Death climbed another way to them who stayed. He showed us pictured thirst, a dreadful sight; And many tales he told that might have come,-Brought by some planet-wanderer,—fresh from Mars, Or from the silver deserts of the moon.

But I remember better than all else One night he told of in that land of fright,— The love-songs swarthy men sang to their herds On the high plains to keep the beasts in heart; Piercing the silence one keen tenor voice Singing "Ai nostri monti" clear and high: Instead of stakes and fences round about They circled them with music in the night.

ILLUSION.

What strange, fond trick is this mine eyes are playing!

I know 't is but the visioning mind perplexes,—
The inward sight the outer sense betraying,—
Yet the sweet lie the spirit wounds and vexes:
As at still midnight pondering here, and reading,
Right on the book's white page, and 'twixt the lines,
And wreathing through the words, and quick
receding,

Only to come again (as 'mid the vines

The dryads flash and hide), white arms are gleaming,
A light hand hovers, curved lips are red,
Locks in a warm and soundless wind are streaming

Across the image of one glorious head;

No more,—no more,—shut now the volume lies

On that swift, piercing look, those haunting eyes.

A SONG OF THE ROAD.

Speed, speed, speed
Through the day, through the night!
Cities are beads on the thread of our flight;
Peaks melt in peaks and are lost in the air.
Speed, speed, —
But oh the dearth of it.

But, oh, the dearth of it—Thou not there!

Every journey is good if love be the goal of it.

What 's all the world if love 's not the soul

of it,—

What were the worth of it—

Thou not there!

"NOT HERE."

ı.

Nor here, but somewhere, so men say,
More bright the day,
And the blue sky
More nigh;
Somewhere, afar, the bird of dawn sings sweeter;
Somewhere completer
The round of hopes and heart-beats that make life
More than a bootless strife.

II.

But, ah! there be that know
Where joy alone doth grow.
Led by one true star,
The journey is not far.
'T is in a garden in no distant land,
High-walled on every hand;
And the key thereof
Is love.

"'NO, NO, SHE SAID."

I.

"No, no," she said;
"I may not wed;
If say I must—nay must I say;
I cannot stay;
Nay, nay, I needs must flout thee!"

II.

He turned about;
His life went out;
"If go I must, so must I go!"
Cried she—"No, no;
Ah, what were life without thee!"

A SOUL LOST, AND FOUND.

ī.

Lo! here another
Soul has gone down.
Hope led each morrow;
Honor was all;
Faith had no fall;
Fortune no frown.
Brother by brother
Bowed to each sorrow.
None had lost heart;
Life was love, life was art.

II.

We could but follow! Quenchless his fire; 64 The mightier the burden
The stronger his soul,
The higher the goal.
Now see the mire
Soil him and swallow!
Heaven! what guerdon
Worth such a cost!
Love, art, life,—lost, all lost.

III.

Down to the pallid
Figure of death
Love's face is pressing;
Listens and waits,
Beseeching the Fates
For heart-beat and breath—
Sign clear and valid,
Life still confessing.
Dead! He is dead!
All is lost!—He has fled.

IV.

Behold now, a moving,
A flutter of life!
Forth from the starkness,
Horror, and slime,
See, he doth climb.
With himself is the strife;
Back to the loving
From mire and the darkness,
Back to the sun!
He has fought—he has won.

"THIS HOUR MY HEART WENT FORTH, AS IN OLD DAYS."

This hour my heart went forth, as in old days, To one I loved, forgetting she was dead-So fluttered back the message, like the dove That found no rest in all the weltering world. Is it then so—all blankness and black void, No welcome, no response, no voice, no sign! Ah, Heaven! let us be foolish—give us faith In what is not; cheat us a little longer; Comfort us mortals with envisioned forms: Let us, though but in dreams, see spirits near, And touch the draperies of imagined shapes That hold the souls we love,—that have gone forth Into the land of shadows, but still live In memory, oh, most dear! Beguile our lives With dim, half-fashioned phantoms of dead hours, Lest the long way grow hateful; -give us faith Unreasoned, vague, unsubstanced, but still faith; For faith is hope, and hope alone is life.

"EVEN WHEN JOY IS NEAR."

Even when joy is near
These ghosts of banished thoughts do haunt the mind:
The awful void of space wherein our earth,
An atom in the unending whirl of stars,
Circles, all helpless, to a nameless doom;
The swift, indifferent marshaling of fate
Whereby the world moves on, rewarding vice
And punishing angelic innocence
As 't were the crime of crimes; the brute, dull, slow
Persistence in the stifled mind of man
Of forces that drive all his being back
Into the slime; the silent cruelty
Of nature, that doth crush the unseen soul
Hidden within its sensitive shell of flesh;
The anguish and the sorrow of all time,—

These are forever with me,—but grow dim When I remember my sweet mother's face. Somewhere, at heart of all, the right must reign If in the garden of the infinite Such loveliness be brought to perfect bloom.

RESURRECTION.

- Back to my body came I in the gray of the dawning. Back to my bed in the mold, 'neath the sod and the blossoms;
- Not strange seemed my natural couch, not new, not afflicting;
- But strange now, and new, and afflicting my natural body,
- Alien long while my soul took the wings of the morning.
- I lifted my hands to the light—then swiftly I followed, With fingers that carefully pressed, the curve of the muscles:
- All was familiar; this was the frame I had nurtured, I had loved as a man loves the body so long his companion;
- Again was I 'ware of the brow where the dew of sweet kisses

Fell, ere forth went the stripling to life and the shudder Of battle;—again from the mirror of waters the features

Not unloved of dear comrades looked forth. I beheld in amazement

The bodily presence so long laid aside and forgotten;
Overwhelmed was my soul with its shackles; I grieved,
I lamented

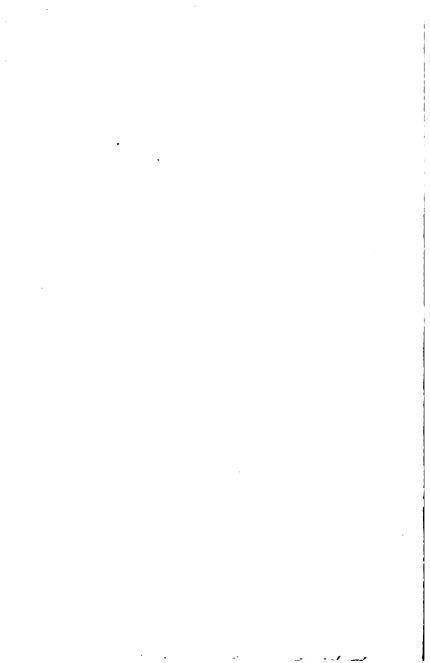
As a prisoner dragged back to his cell, as an eagle recaptured.

"AS SOARS THE EAGLE."

As soars the eagle, intimate of light, Fear not the face of the sun; Nor all the blasts of earth. Child of Him, the untrembling One, Oh, prove thee worthy of thy birth!

Let no ill betray thee! Let no death dismay thee!

The eagle seeks the sky,
Nor fears the infinite light;
Thus, soul of mine, escape the night
And 'gainst the morning fly!



ROBERT GOULD SHAW.

(THE MONUMENT BY AUGUSTUS ST. GAUDENS.)

ı.

FIXED in one desire,
Thrilled by one fierce fire,
Marching men and horse,
And he the youthful rider—one soul, one aim,
one force.

II.

Onward he doth press;
Moving, but motionless;
Resolute, intent,—
As on some mighty errand the willing youth were bent.

III.

Onward, though he hears Father's, sisters' tears;

75

Onward, though before him

Grief more near, more dear—the breaking
heart that bore him.

IV.

Onward, though he leaves
One who lonely grieves;
Oh, keep him, Fate! from harm,
For on his dewy lips the bridal kiss is warm.

v.

What doth he behold

Making the boy so bold?

Speak with whispering breath!

O Fate, O Fame, O radiant soul in love with glorious Death!

VI.

Eyes that forward peer— Why have they no fear? Because, through blood and blight,

They see the golden morning burst and bring
the living light;

VII.

See War the fetters strike
From white and black alike;
See, past the pain and scorn,
A nation saved, a race redeemed, and freedom
newly born;

VIII.

See, in days to come,—
When silent War's loud drum,
Ere civic wrong shall cease,—
Heroes as pure and brave arise on battle-fields
of peace.

"THE NORTH STAR DRAWS THE HERO."

(TO H. N. G.)

THE North Star draws the hero; he abides
Steadfast though death defends the unending quest.
But, ah, more faithful still the love that hides
In woman's empty arms and aching breast!

GLAVE.

This day I read in the sad scholar's page

That the old earth is withered and undone;

That faith and great emprise beneath the sun
Are vain and empty in our doting age;

'T were best to calm the spirit's noble rage,

To live in dreams, and all high passion shun,

While round and round the aimless seasons run,—
Pleasured alone with dead art's heritage.

Then, as I read, outshone thy face of youth,

Hero and martyr of humanity,

Dead yesterday on Afric's shore of doom!

Ah, no; Faith, Courage fail not, while lives Truth,

While Pity lives, while man for man can die,

And deeds of glory light the dark world's gloom.

OF HENRY GEORGE,

WHO DIED FIGHTING AGAINST POLITICAL TYRANNY
AND CORRUPTION.

Now is the city great! That deep-voiced bell
Tolls for a martyred hero. Such is he
Who loved her, strove for her, and nobly fell.
His fire be ours,—the passion to be free.

NEW YORK, 1897.

SCORN.

Who are the men that good men most despise?

Not they who, ill begot and spawned in shame,
Riot and rob, or rot before men's eyes,—
Who basely live, and dying leave no name.

These are the piteous refuse of mankind,
Fatal the ascendant star when they were born,—
Distort in body, starved in soul and mind;
Ah, not for them the good man's bitter scorn!

He, only, is the despicable one
Who lightly sells his honor as a shield
For fawning knaves, to hide them from the sun;—
Too nice for crime, yet, coward, he doth yield
For crime a shelter. Swift to Paradise
The contrite thief, not Judas with his price!

THE HEROIC AGE.

HE speaks not well who doth his time deplore, Naming it new and little and obscure, Ignoble and unfit for lofty deeds. All times were modern in the time of them, And this no more than others. Do thy part Here in the living day, as did the great Who made old days immortal! So shall men, Gazing long back to this far-looming hour, Sav: "Then the time when men were truly men: Though wars grew less, their spirits met the test Of new conditions; conquering civic wrong; Saving the state anew by virtuous lives; Guarding the country's honor as their own, And their own as their country's and their sons': Defying leagued fraud with single truth; Not fearing loss; and daring to be pure.

When error through the land raged like a pest,
They calmed the madness caught from mind to mind
By wisdom drawn from eld, and counsel sane;
And as the martyrs of the ancient world
Gave Death for man, so nobly gave they Life:
Those the great days, and that the heroic age."
ATHENS, 1896.

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.

(IN MEMORY OF JOE EVANS.)

Too much of praise for the quick, pitiless blow!

Justice doth lean on strength, full well we know;

But the sharp, glittering sword that strikes for right

Takes fame too easily. Thank Heaven for might,

Which is Heaven's servant, oft! Yet he 's not man

Who, when the heart 's afire, no brave deed can.

Praise thou the clenched fist that, when blood is hot,

On itself tightens, but descendeth not.

Aye, praise the sword undrawn, the bolt unsped,

The rage suppressed till the true word is said.

Might of the spirit, this shalt thou extol,

And holy weakness of the conquering soul.

And on this day, when one well loved has passed From suffering to the unknown peace, at last, Would I might praise, as nobly as I ought, The hero-soldier who no battle fought,—
Or, rather, one who, facing fate's worst frown, The spirit's sword but with his life laid down.

The soul that from that body, bent and frail, Peered out, did at no earthly terror quail. To face an army he was brave enough; Martyrs and conquerors are of that stuff. And in the civic conflict that was waged Year after year, his knightly spirit raged; He could not bear his country should have blame, So this slight warrior did the mighty shame. Yet Beauty was his passion, and the art To paint it—that it might not all depart. He loved the gentlest things; there was a grace In his sad look surpassing many a face More beautiful. Ah, back, ye bitter tears! He, lover of light and gladness, all these years Fighting twin demons of keen pain and doom; He, of such humor that the very tomb Might snatch a brightness from his presence there! But no; not bright the tomb. We, in despair, Seek through the world again a charm like this-That which our friend has taken we shall forever miss.

April, 1898.

"THROUGH ALL THE CUNNING AGES."

ı.

Through all the cunning ages

Mankind hath made for man

From out his loves and rages

A god to bless and ban.

II.

When he his foe despises

This god he calls to curse;

And would he win earth's prizes

His praise doth man rehearse.

III.

So, when he craves the guerdon Of others' land and pelf, He flings the blame and burden On this shadow of himself. IV.

If, spite of all their ranting,

There reigns a God indeed,

How well he hates the canting

That framed their sordid creed!

v.

"Lay not to me your hollow And broken words of faith,— To sin that good may follow No law of mine," he saith.

VI.

"If, 'twixt your tribes and nations,
There lives no law but might,
Not myriad incantations
Can make your evil right.

VII.

"Ye call me 'God of battle'; I weary while ye slay. Are ye my hornèd cattle To find no better way?"

ONE COUNTRY-ONE SACRIFICE.

(ENSIGN WORTH BAGLEY, MAY 11, 1898.)

In one rich drop of blood, ah, what a sea
Of healing! Thou, sweet boy, wert first to fall
In our new war; and thou wert southron all!
There is no North, no South,—remembering thee.

"WHEN WITH THEIR COUNTRY'S ANGER."

I.

When with their country's anger
They flame into the fight,—
On sea, in treacherous forest,
To strike with main and might,—

II.

He shows the gentlest mercy
Who rains the deadliest blows;
Then quick war's hell is ended,
And home the hero goes.

III.

What stays the noblest memory
For all his years to keep?
Not of the foemen slaughtered,
But rescued from the deep!

90 "WHEN WITH THEIR COUNTRY'S ANGER."

IV.

Rescued with peerless daring!
Oh, none shall forget that sight,
When the unaimed cannon thundered
In the ghastly after-fight.

V.

And, now, in the breast of the heroThere blooms a strange, new flower,A blood-red, fragrant blossomSown in the battle-hour.

VI.

'T is not the Love of Comrades,—
That flower forever blows,—
But the brave man's Love of Courage,
The Love of Comrade-Foes.

VII.

For since the beginning of battles
On the land and on the wave,
Heroes have answered to heroes,
The brave have honored the brave.

1898.

A VISION.

ALL round the glimmering circuit of the isle
Audibly pulsed the ocean. In the dark
Of the thick wood a voice not of its own
Might come to sharpened ears; a sound suppressed,—
The rustling of an armèd multitude
Who toss in sleep, or, wakening, watch for death.
Beneath the tropic stars that in strange skies
Drew close and glittered large, I saw in dream
A Soul pass hoveringly.

Then came I near
And questioned of that Ghost, who answer made
Like a deep, murmuring wind that slowly draws
Through dim memorial aisles of ancient time:

"I am the mother of men, and from my womb Came all the dead and living. I am cursed With memory, with knowledge of what is, And what shall be; yet, verily, am I blessed With these three knowledges,—my children I Have seen these myriad years grow, age by age, More wise, more just, more joyous, yet have I Seen mutual slaughter sow the earth with tears. In this New World here had I hoped my children Would learn to unlearn the path mankind has climbed Over its slain to happiness and power; For soon or late I know that boon shall come, And in the wars of peace the race shall wax Manlier, purer, gentler, and more wise.

But now again the sacred truce is broken, And bleeds this breast at every wound and sigh, And aches my mother-heart with the new pain Of mortal mothers comfortless forever."

Then passed the Spirit from my dream at dawn; I woke into another day of war With news of splendid deeds, and victory,—Yet still I heard that brooding shade lament.

1898.

THE WORD OF THE WHITE TSAR.

This day, a strange and beautiful word was spoken,— Not with the voice of a child, nor the voice of a woman,

Nor yet with the voice of a poet, the melody sounded,—

Forth from the lips of a warrior, girt for the battle, Breathed this word of words o'er a world astonished.

Prisoners returning from war, and conquering armies,
Navies flushed with new and amazing victory,
Heard the message, so strange, so high, so entrancing,
And soldiers dying of wounds or the wasting of fever.
In tropic islands it sounded, through wrecks of cities;
O'er burning plains where warlike death was in
waiting;

Armies and navies confronting, in watchful silence, Heard it and wondered; statesmen stopped their debates,

And turning their eyes toward the voice, with its meaning unlooked for,

Listened and smiled with the smile and the sneer of the cynic.

But the mothers of youths who had died of their wounds and of fever,

And the poor crushed down by the price of the glory of battle

And the weight of the wars that have been, and that yet are preparing,

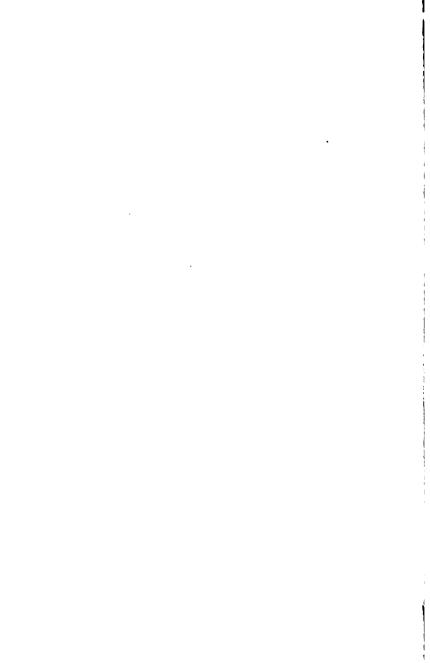
They from their burdens looked up and uttered their blessing:

For Peace—the Peace of God—was the warrior's prayer!

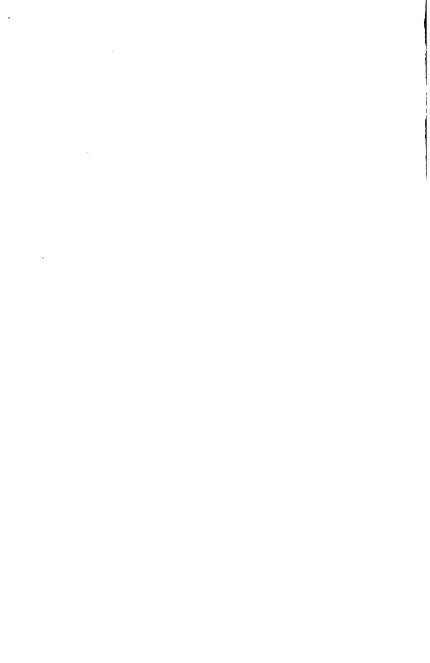
And I, who heard, I saw in a waking vision An image familiar long to the hearts of mortals,— A face of trouble, a brow celestial, yet human,— In a dream of the day, I saw that suffering spirit, Him accustomed to labor, to anguish not alien, Still mourning for men alone in the valley of shadows;—

I dreamed that he lifted that face of infinite sorrow, And harkened,—when lo! a light in those eyes of sadness

Came sudden as day that breaks from the mountains of Moab.







A SONG FOR DOROTHEA, ACROSS THE SEA.

T.

A SONG for you, my darling,
For your own, dear, only sake.
You bid me sing,—so does the spring
Bid the birds awake,
And quick with molten music the dewy branches
quake.

II.

A song for you, my darling,

To follow you all the day;

And in sweet sleep the song shall keep

Singing along the way,

Through dreamland's silver meadows with golden

lilies gay.

99

100 A SONG FOR DOROTHEA, ACROSS THE SEA.

III.

A song for you, my darling,

For those deep and darkling eyes,

That steadfast shine as the stars divine

Bright in the midnight skies,

When the winds blow the clouds from heaven, and

we gaze with a glad surprise.

IV.

A song for you, my darling,
A song for that faithful heart

That as true abides as the throbbing tides,
Though half a world apart—
So far away is the girl I sing, with only a lover's art.

A BLIND POET.

Call him not blind
Whose keen, anointed sight,
Pierced every secret of the heart, the mind,
The day, the night.

ON A WOMAN SEEN UPON THE STAGE.

("TESS," AS PLAYED BY MRS. FISKE.)

ALAS, poor, fated, passionate, shivering thing! So through brief life some dagger-haunted king Wears a bright sorrow. Thus her life rehearse: She was a woman; this her crown, her curse.

OF ONE WHO NEITHER SEES NOR HEARS.

(HELEN KELLER.)

I.

She lives in light, not shadow;
Not silence, but the sound
Which thrills the stars of heaven
And trembles from the ground.

II.

She breathes a finer ether,
Beholds a keener sun;
In her supernal being
Music and light are one.

III.

Unknown the subtile senses

That lead her through the day;
103

104 OF ONE WHO NEITHER SEES NOR HEARS.

Love, light, and song and color Come by another way.

IV.

Sight brings she to the seeing, New song to those that hear; Her braver spirit sounding Where mortals fail and fear.

v.

She at the heart of being

Serene and glad doth dwell;

Spirit with scarce a veil of flesh;

A soul made visible.

VI.

Or is it only a lovely girl
With flowers at her maiden breast?

—Helen, here is a book of song
From the poet who loves you best.

FOR THE ESPOUSALS OF JEANNE ROUMANILLE, OF AVIGNON.

I.

WHILE joy-bells are ringing
And the high Fates meet thee,
Child of the South, and of singing,
Singing I greet thee

II.

In thy chaplet one flower

From a far world!—Wilt wear it?

Rich though thy land, and this hour,

Thou mayst not forbear it;

III.

Thou wilt welcome and win it;
It will breathe on, caress thee;
For the fame of thy father is in it;
His lover doth bless thee!

105

106 THE ESPOUSALS OF JEANNE ROUMANILLE.

IV.

His lover—the lover of thee, O Provence; Thy blue skies, thy gray mountains; The heart-beat of Freedom and France Shakes thy rivers and fountains,

v.

And makes thee a dream and a passion
In the souls of all poets forever,—
While from thy fire thou dost fashion
Beauty and music and art that shall perish, oh,
never!

TO MARIE JOSEPHINE GIRARD, QUEEN OF THE FÉLIBRES,

ON HER WEDDING-DAY.

QUEENS have there been of many a fair domain Of arts, of hearts, of lands.

Thy sovereignty a threefold realm commands Who o'er Provence, and Poetry, and Love dost reign.

INSCRIPTION FOR A TOWER IN FLORENCE.

(WRITTEN FOR THE CHATELAINE.)

I.

Four-walled is my tower:

The first wall is for the dawn that comes from Vallombrosa,

The second wall is for the day that fills with soft fire the green vase of Tuscany,

The third is for the evening twilight that darkens from the Valley of the Arno,

The fourth is for the night and the stars of night.

II.

Four-walled is my tower:

One wall is for the South and the sun,

One is for the West and for memory,

One is for the North and the star that never sets,

And one is for the East and a faith that fares beyond the stars.

108

INSCRIPTION FOR A TOWER IN FLORENCE. 109

III.

Four-walled is my tower:
One wall is for the Spring and for Hope,
One is for Summer and for Love,
One is for Autumn and the Harvest,
One is for Winter and for Waiting.

IV.

Four-walled is my tower:

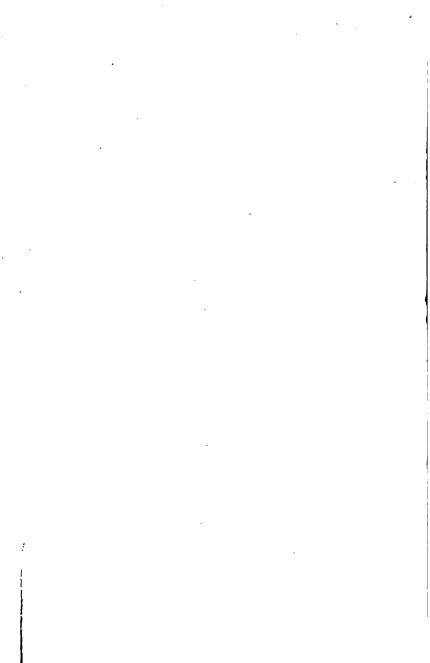
One is for Childhood and the Innocence of Life,
The second is for Youth and the Joy of Life,
The third is for Manhood and the Fullness of Life,
The fourth is for Old Age and the Wisdom of Life.

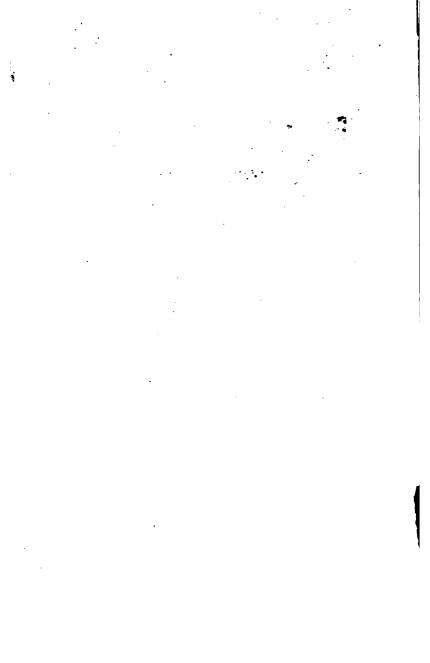
v.

Four-walled is my tower:
A Rock for Strength,
A Height for Seeing,
A Beacon for the Stranger,
And a Hearth for Friendship.
Four-walled is my tower
On the Hill of Bellosguardo.

WITH A VOLUME OF DANTE.

O THOU whom Virgil and thy Beatrice
Through life and death, Hell, Purgatory, Heaven,
Led upward into unimagined light,—
Lead thou this soul the way thou, too, didst go
Unto the Light that lights the eternal stars!





NOV 8 1911

10C1 1 - 1912 20 8 Hda

m russia